



Principal Language Spoken

DOs and DON'Ts of PLS Reporting

PLS is the language a patient prefers to be used when communicating with the health care community.

DO ensure your facility can collect and report any possible language a patient may state.

DO spell write-in languages correctly.

The International Standards Organization ISO 639-2 may be used as a reference tool.

DO use valid 3-digit code abbreviations from either OSHPD's regulatory code list or the ISO 639-2 list.

DO report only languages, their valid 3-digit codes, or "Unknown" in the PLS field.

DO report only one language for each patient.

DO use "Unknown" only for unconscious patients who never speak during the course of treatment and the PLS cannot be determined.

DO report the language a patient is using to communicate with staff if the patient refuses to self-declare their language preference.

DO report a child's language as the language of the parent or caretaker used to communicate with the physician.

DON'T use invalid abbreviations for a language.

DON'T report "Unknown" for patients who are communicating or are accompanied by someone who can indicate the patient's Principal Language.

DON'T report phrases like "Other", "Refuse to Declare", "Bilingual", etc. in the PLS field.

DON'T report a language different from what the patient indicates.

(i.e. Don't report American Indian if the patient indicates Navajo.)

For further details, please see the Principal Language Spoken section of the Reporting Manuals or contact your MIRCal analyst.

www.oshpd.ca.gov/HID/MIRCal